

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
TOSHIAKI SATO, ET AL.) : Examiner: Nhan T. Tran
Appln. No.: 10/688,997) : Group Art Unit: 2622
Filed: October 21, 2003) : Confirmation No.: 3960
For: IMAGE PICKUP ELEMENT,)
IMAGE PICKUP DEVICE, AND) :
DIFFERENTIAL)
AMPLIFYING CIRCUIT : February 26, 2007

Mail Stop Amendment
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
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RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Sir:

Applicants respectfully traverse the election of species requirement set forth in the Office Action dated January 24, 2007.

A careful review of the specification reveals that the two species are closely related and would not require separate fields of search. Accordingly, neither Applicants nor the Patent and Trademark Office should be put to the trouble and expense entailed in multiple filing and prosecution. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the public at

large should not be required to obtain and study separate patent documents in order to have available all of the issued patent claims covering the invention.

Nevertheless, in order to comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.143, Applicants provisionally elect Species II, represented by Figure 13. It is respectfully submitted that Claims 5-8 read on the elected species.

Favorable consideration is requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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